



## CHAPTER 4

## **CURRENT OPERATIONS**

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Today, the Marine Corps is deployed around the globe engaged in the Long War. With more than 24,000 Marines deployed throughout the U.S. Central Command, in the Middle East and austere locations worldwide, Marines are fighting a cunning and adaptive enemy in increasingly complex forms of warfare.

Marine deployed forces have participated in over sixty Theater Security Cooperation events, which ranged from Mobile Training Teams in Central America to Marine Expeditionary Unit exercises in Africa, Jordan and Qatar and have supported civil, military and humanitarian assistance operations such as New Horizons events in Nicaragua and land mine removal in Azerbaijan.

Figure 4-1 demonstrates the historic nature of the Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF) in supporting U.S. National Security objectives. During 1990 and 91 and again in 2003 to 2007 Marine combat forces were deployed to support Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom. During the period 1992 to 2002 Marine units continuously deployed to support humanitarian missions providing much needed assistance in times of crisis involving earthquakes and floods and they assisted in the evacuation of noncombatants. Finally, Marine units were often called upon to provide security deployments to enforce no fly zones, maritime interdiction, counter drug and peacekeeping operations. These trends clearly indicate the continued relevance of the MAGTF to effectively meet the ever changing demands of a dynamic world.